

Greetings everyone! It's finally looking a bit like spring outside my window today. Now, let's not get too excited in case it snows again soon (which I'm sure it will). Now that FCCLA's State Leadership Conference is over, it is time to focus on the annual MAFCS Conference. I hope to see many of you in Big Sky next week! *If you are planning to attend, please be sure to read the first paragraph below from our conference coordinators.*

MAFCS Conference Update – Big Sky, April 9 – 11

A note from the conference coordinators: email confirmations went out this week from the Conference Committee for confirmed conference attendees. If you didn't receive an email, it is because they did not receive your information/registration. Please contact Bethany Ringer at mafcs2014conference@gmail.com ASAP so the committee can get a head count for the social and meals. Registration information is available here: http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/CTE/FCS/14MAFCS_Winter_ConfNews.pdf.

American Federation of Teachers Survey Request

(From Randi Weingarten, AFT President)

Over the past six months, I have had the opportunity to visit a number of cutting-edge career and technical education public schools. I have been enormously impressed by these schools' innovative courses and instructional approaches—approaches that engage students with real-world applications of academic concepts. I have seen how high-quality career and technical education done in collaboration with businesses gives students the kind of in-demand skills they will need to build a productive future.

This is an exciting time for career and technical education (also known as CTE) as policymakers grapple with how to best prepare students for 21st-century careers. The AFT is advocating on behalf of our teachers in these programs, and we want to do it as effectively as possible, especially if Congress takes up the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act—the primary federal funding mechanism for CTE. We realize that we need more information to identify the full range of exemplary CTE programs our members are engaged in and to create a network of CTE teachers to tell us their success stories. Please consider completing this national survey:

<http://afl.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=uTeJzWB0tTiNlr%2B5IbJDRn2GUonyQb8n>.

Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts

Have you accessed the High School Culinary Portal offered by the Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts yet? If not, please know that this portal offers complimentary lesson plans for you and your students. It allows access to online teaching modules with quizzes to enhance your classroom instruction — now available via our new culinary portal:

- Task your students with completing courses throughout the semester
- Enjoy minimal preparation time outside of the classroom
- Spend more time in the kitchen
- Choose from ten exciting courses

- Share scholarship opportunities with your students
- Download complimentary cooking apps

Register now to get complimentary access to the new portal by emailing or calling Lisa Aguilar at (720) 457-9433 or laguilar@escoffier.edu.

Will you be in Boulder, Colorado this summer on July 16 – 18 or July 23 – 25? If so, Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts is offering a [Complimentary Farm to Table Seminar](#)!

This summer, attend a complimentary Escoffier Farm to Table seminar in beautiful Boulder, Colorado, designed for teachers and counselors. Explore the philosophies and methods of sourcing ingredients from local farmers & food artisans.

Join for an informative and fun three-day experience:

- Take a field trip to local farms/artisans on Wednesday
- Purchase ingredients at the Boulder Farmers' Market
- Cook a delicious meal with your colleagues using a variety of challenging techniques on Thursday and Friday
- Optional: Dinner at a Boulder farm-to-table restaurant Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m.

This workshop is available at the only school in the country with a registered Farm To Table® Experience. Each seminar is limited to 18 participants. Reserve your place at the table by emailing Chuck Stober at cstober@escoffier.edu or calling (720) 315-6214.

CAFÉ 2014 Leadership Conference – Salt Lake City

Are you familiar with CAFÉ? CAFÉ stands for the Center for the Advancement of Foodservice Education, and it was founded in 2002 to serve as a link between the foodservice industry and the culinary/baking/pastry classroom. Today CAFÉ offers a wide range of resources to foodservice educators on its website, its on-line magazine, and its annual conference and workshop schedule of professional development offerings around the U.S. To learn more about CAFÉ and access its numerous resources, visit www.cafemeetingplace.com.

Each summer, CAFÉ offers a Leadership Conference professional development opportunity. This year's 2014 Leadership Conference is being held June 19 – 21 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Join foodservice educators from around the U.S. and internationally for an action-packed 2 days of programming specifically designed for foodservice instructors and program leaders at both the secondary and postsecondary levels. Registration information can be found here: <http://www.cafemeetingplace.com/cafe-events/2014-leadership-conference>. Also, this conference comes highly recommended from Joan Leik, Helena HS FCS Teacher!

CTE Spring Data Collection in AIM Continues

REMINDER: The CTE Spring Data Collection began March 1 and ends April 30. This AIM collection asks schools to identify all 12th grade high school students who meet the definition of a CTE Concentrator be identified as such in the AIM/Infinite Campus data

system. High schools who receive funding from the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program must complete this CTE data collection. Instructions for completing the CTE Spring Data Collection can be found here: http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1_6
For more information, contact [Diana Fiedler](#), 406.444.9019.

Farm to School Youth Leadership Curriculum

From the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, this newly written semester-long Farm to School Youth Leadership curriculum is designed to empower high school students (11th & 12th grades) and engage them in meaningful, hands-on learning activities that also strengthen their school's Farm to School program and link them directly with farmers in their community. To access the free/downloadable curriculum, please visit the website at <http://www.iatp.org/issue/farm-to-school>.

The Local Harvest Event Grant

This spring, NCAT will partner with two teams of Montana high schoolers to plan a Growing Leaders Local Harvest event to be held in their communities in the fall. The two events will celebrate and educate about healthy, local food while providing youth leadership, learning, and networking opportunities. Youth will work together with educators, community leaders, local food producers, and others in highlighting, supporting, and building vibrant community-based food systems in Montana. NCAT will award up to \$2,000 each to two winning teams to cover event expenses and also will provide planning, training, and logistical support. NCAT is now accepting Local Harvest Event Grant proposals.

Who should apply?

Teams of high school-aged youth from any Montana community working together with an adult who is:

- A member of a high school's faculty or staff, or
- An employee of a 501(c)3 organization, or
- A parent sponsored by a high school, a 501(c)3 organization, or a PTO/PTA

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY NOW](#) - Applications are due Sunday May 4, 2014 @ midnight

If you have any questions pertaining to the Local Harvest Event Grant or the Growing Leaders Youth Initiatives, please contact Jeremy Drake, jeremyd@ncat.org, (406) 494-8641.

Perkins 'Intent to Apply' AND State VoEd Funding Application NOW AVAILABLE

The OPI has, again, combined both the federal Carl D. Perkins 'Intent to Apply' AND the State CTE/State VoEd Funding Application for districts convenience. Districts may apply for one or both funding programs using this one electronic form. The online link to access the application is now available and listed below. **Authorized Representatives** of LEAs will use the online link

to complete and submit the brief funding application for the 2014-2015 E-Grants cycle. All public high schools and K-12 districts with qualifying Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are eligible to apply for funding. Elementary districts are not eligible for Perkins or State VoEd monies. Districts must apply online on or before the deadline to receive an allocation. These designations are binding and cannot be changed once allocations are downloaded into the E-Grants system. The online link is located here: <http://www.keysurvey.com/f/343718/10f4/>. The combined Perkins 'Intent to Apply' AND State CTE/State VoEd funding application is DUE to the OPI on or before April 21, 2014. For more information, contact [Diana Fiedler](#), 406.444.9019

Perkins Remaining Funds for 2013-2014

FRIENDLY REMINDER to all high school districts with an outstanding or remaining 2013-2014 Perkins allocation to please obligate your remaining funds before the end of this current school year. If you have questions regarding your Perkins balance or any submitted cash requests, please contact Charlotte McMilin, Perkins Accountant. If you have questions about obligating your Perkins funds, please contact either Brad King or Renee Harris. Brad can be reached at: 406.444.4451 or by email at: bking2@mt.gov. Renee can be reached at: 406.994.6986 or by email at: rharris3@mt.gov.

Student Advisory Board Nominations

Superintendent Juneau is inviting high school administrators, guidance counselors, teachers, and community members to nominate public high school students to serve on her statewide Student Advisory Board for the 2014-15 school year. Students selected attend two annual board meetings and serve a two-year appointment. Nominations close on April 11, 2014. For more information, please go to the Graduation Matters Montana website and click on the button to nominate a student. <http://graduationmatters.mt.gov/>. For more information, please contact [Jen Bezanson](#) at 444-3526.

Teacher Cancellation Loan

The Teacher Cancellation Loan Program assists teachers with up to \$17,500.00 in forgiveness on Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans as well as Subsidized and Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans. The program was started with the intentions of encouraging educators to stay in the teaching profession. Qualifying teachers must have taught five consecutive years in a qualifying school district. Also, the teacher must be highly qualified in a qualifying subject in order to apply. To be considered a highly qualified teacher, you must obtain full state certification along with passing rigorous testing in the teaching field in which the applicant has a degree. In order for the school to qualify, the school must have over 30 percent poverty or free and reduced lunch rates. The school must also be a Title I School. Each school year, the qualifying school list is updated by the state in order for the applicants and lenders to determine eligibility. To learn more, click on the Teacher Cancellation Loan link: <http://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/charts/teacher>. You may also contact Shawna Pieske at spieske@mt.gov or (406)444-5660.

Montana FCS Job Openings

The following FCS positions are open in Montana:

- Poplar High School – Poplar, MT
 - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/FA776947-3B9ACA00-034EFA1F>
- Terry Schools – Terry, MT
 - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/7DF26478-3B9ACA00-034F30B5>

Thought of the Day

“Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change.”

~ Wayne Dyer

Calendar of Events

April 9 – 11, 2014: [Montana Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Annual Spring Conference](#), Big Sky, MT

April 23 – 26, 2014: [ACTE Region V Conference](#), Mandan, ND

April 28 – 29, 2014: [Montana Financial Education Coalition Statewide Conference & Resource Fair](#), Helena, MT

April 29 or 30, 2014: [Montana Big Sky Pathways & Dual Enrollment Workshop](#), Bozeman, MT

May 3 – 5, 2014: [National ProStart Invitational](#), Minneapolis, MN

May 4 – 7, 2014: NASAFACS Spring Meeting, Reno, NV

June 6 – 8, 2014: Montana CTSO Leadership Camp, Bigfork, MT

June 16 – 18, 2014: [National Career Clusters Institute](#), Phoenix, AZ

June 19 – 21, 2014: [CAFÉ 2014 Leadership Conference](#), Salt Lake City, UT

June 25 – 28, 2014: [AAFCS Annual Conference & Expo](#), St. Louis, MO

July 6 – 10, 2014: [FCCLA National Leadership Conference](#), San Antonio, TX

Facebook Group Links

Montana FCS Educators Group: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/168470129878554/>

Montana FCCLA Chapter Advisers Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/248102661886036/>

**Both are closed groups – click on link and ask to be added for some great conversation & resources!*